

children and all of America's children. Peace officers, Mr. Speaker, are the last strand of wire in the fence between the good and the evil. They wear the badge with pride, and tonight the peace officers wear the black cloth of sacrifice against their badges.

Mr. Speaker, God bless Officer Johnson.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 2130

THE IRAQ WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend the New York Times published an article entitled "Spy Agencies say Iraq War Worsens Terrorism Threat." The article goes on to describe an April 2006, a National Intelligence Estimate which reports the consensus of the 16 U.S. intelligence agencies that the American invasion and occupation of Iraq has helped spawn a new generation of Islamic radicalism and that the overall terrorist threat has grown since the September 11 attacks.

The NIE report concludes that the radical Islamic movement has expanded from a core of al Qaeda operatives to include a new class of "self-generating" cells inspired by al Qaeda's leadership, but without any direct connection to Osama bin Laden or his top lieutenants, which will be difficult to monitor and disrupt. One official quoted in the article says "that the Iraq war has made the overall terrorism problem worse."

Mr. Speaker and Members, what are we doing? What is this administration doing, and what is this American President thinking about? He is sending more troops to Iraq. The Army announced today that it has extended the combat tours of about 4,000 soldiers who normally would be returning home and is considering sending more combat units to Iraq in order to meet the needs in Iraq. Many of the troops in Iraq are on their second and even third deployment to Iraq. The additional troops are necessary because of the sectarian violence that encompasses much of the country. Many experts have concluded that Iraq is in a civil war.

Mr. Speaker and Members, the President of the United States has said more than once that we are not getting out of Iraq, that we will stand down when the Iraqis stand up, and they would have you believe that we are training Iraqi soldiers and that they are going to take over the responsibility of securing that country.

It is not happening, Mr. Speaker and Members. As a matter of fact, some of the Iraqi soldiers that have been trained are abandoning our soldiers in the middle of conflict. I read an account just a few days ago where our

American soldiers got in the middle of a confrontation of a battle, I think, between Sunnis and Shiites, and they were watched by the Iraqi soldiers who were with them who literally stepped back and let the American soldiers be responsible for trying to resolve that fight that was going on.

We hear stories not only about Iraqi soldiers who abandoned our soldiers but who are really inside, being trained by us, with American taxpayer dollars being spent on training them when they simply turn on us. They are not with us to begin with. They are there to spy on us, and they are undermining us.

For God's sake, what are we doing? This occupation is not only causing the deaths of young American men and women, almost 3,000. It is robbing this country of its resources. Well over \$300 billion has been spent on this war in Iraq, and that is not to add to the amount of money in Afghanistan. We went to Iraq because supposedly we were making Americans safer. We are at greater risk now than we have ever been. We are certainly at greater risk and less secure than we were before 9/11.

And not only that, why didn't we track Osama bin Laden up through Afghanistan to that border between Pakistan and Afghanistan where we believe he really is? But no. We told the American public that it was Saddam Hussein. We have spent all of this money. We have occupied it, and we still don't have Osama bin Laden. Osama bin Laden, I believe, is being protected by the Pakistanis. I believe that Mr. Musharraf, who is supposed to be our ally, whom we are giving money to, knows a lot more than he is telling us. But one thing I know for sure, he won't allow us to come into Pakistan and he just created a pact with the Taliban. The Taliban is back in control. The poppy seeds are flowing. The dope is flowing. It has been tracked all the way to Chicago.

The American people had better get their heads out of the sand, and we had better do our oversight job and bring our soldiers home. Stop this war in Iraq.

TWO CAPTIVE ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND PROBLEMS WITH THE U.N.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on July 12 of this year, Hezbollah guerillas killed three Israeli soldiers and kidnapped another two, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev. All the while Hezbollah continued to launch rockets at civilian targets in northern Israel. These actions against Israel's sovereignty sparked Israel's defensive measures and the subsequent escalation of the conflict. In the end, as a direct consequence of Hezbollah's belligerence, more than 1,000 Lebanese

and Israeli civilians lay dead and the infrastructure of Lebanon lay in ruins.

When the cease-fire was brokered by the United Nations, it was the understanding of all parties, especially Israel, that the U.N. would work toward the release of Israel's kidnapped soldiers. Today, however, more than 2 months later, those two brave young men remain in captivity and their families remain uncertain of their future.

Furthermore, Hezbollah remains armed with as many as 20,000 rockets aimed at Israel, according to this group's own claims. Just this past Friday, Mr. Speaker, Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, threw a victory rally in Lebanon, taunting Israel, the peace-seeking government of Lebanon, and the United Nations as well with the probability that no one will ever see these two soldiers alive again. In fact, not only did Nasrallah note that these soldiers would only be returned in exchange for some of its jailed terrorist foot soldiers; he also vowed that neither the U.N. nor the Lebanese troops would ever be allowed to disarm Hezbollah guerilla troops in southern Israel and threatened the Western-friendly Lebanese Government of the Prime Minister.

There can be no doubt that Nasrallah and Hezbollah have become bolder, more dangerous, and graver threats to the peace in the Middle East.

And yet Israel has honorably abided by the terms of the cease-fire as a sign of good faith and its commitment of peace in the region. It leaves one to wonder at the effectiveness of the U.N. to rectify this still unresolved injustice. This situation brings to light yet another example of the dramatic shortcomings of the U.N. in its ability to carry out the good that it was originally planned for and created.

In fact, at the very time that the United Nations was seeking to implement this cease-fire in Lebanon, it was entertaining the Iranian Prime Minister, who surprised no one with his tirade against the U.N. General Assembly, alternating between anti-American vitriol and ad hominem attacks against Israel as well.

Of course, if the United Nations is going to be an effective broker for peace and a conduit for diplomacy, it must itself be above reproach. The United Nations' track record, however, with regard to Israel specifically is unbalanced at best and anti-Semitic at worst. In just a single session of the U.N. General Assembly, it passed 21 individual resolutions criticizing Israel. And over its 30-year period of time, the U.N. has actually funded three organizations that disseminate anti-Israeli propaganda. Furthermore, only Israel has been called upon to defend itself as an individual agenda item before the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

Even on a more general level, as I have discussed here before, it is little wonder that the U.N. has lacked the credibility to broker international agreements, let alone enforce them.

With its current track record of internal corruption and its roster of greedy little machine bosses that it has, the U.N. is hardly able to claim the moral high ground necessary to occupy this position.

Consider, for example, the Oil-for-Food scandal that facilitated as much as \$17 billion in grants, scams, and smuggling, keeping Saddam Hussein living in the lap of luxury while the people of his country, Iraq, starved, and also paying for the rewards for the families of suicide bombers as well. Even now that the first conviction of a central figure to that scandal has been served and dates have been set for the trials of several other co-conspirators, the U.N. continues to protect some of the most egregious offenders.

It has been long enough, Mr. Speaker, and I urge the United Nations to do what is right for once, to defend the sovereignty of the State of Israel and take the necessary measures to ensure the soldiers' immediate and safe return to their families and to give evidence of its credibility as a true broker of peace in the Middle East.

HONORING OFFICER RODNEY JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the early evening hours of last Thursday, Officer Rodney Johnson lost his life in the line of duty. And out of that most horrific tragedy came an outpouring of love, affection, and admiration for one of Houston's finest.

Officer Johnson's story, although he lived it every day, began to unfold. Alongside of this valiant officer was his valiant wife, a Houston Police Department officer by the name of Jocelyn Johnson. Both were the parents of five wonderful children. Included in the extended family were sisters and mothers and his very special sister, Susan Johnson. They were a family that were well known. Many of them or some of them were members or participants at the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in my congressional district, where at the time Reverend William Lawson was the pastor.

As we begin to learn, know, and understand Officer Johnson, as I indicated, the hearts of Houstonians poured out to him and his family. I think what was most telling about how this family loved each other were the kind words or the words of nonhatred of his wife, when asked if she hated the perpetrator, who now has confessed and is in police custody, and she said no. What a statement of valor. What a statement of courage. What a statement of leadership.

So this evening I pay tribute to Officer Rodney Johnson for his life and his legacy.

As the story unfolds, he was a wonderful husband, a loving father, and an

outstanding police officer. As I traveled around my district offering condolences to the number of men and women in blue that I saw, each one of them would say, we have lost a friend. You really needed to know Officer Rodney Johnson. He did so much. He cared so much. In fact, there was a story that indicated that he might have overslept on that day, but his wife woke him up and so he went on to work. When told the story, there was some reminiscing as to maybe that should not have happened, but then there was a thought that if he had woken up and found that he had overslept that he would, in fact, have gone to work because that is the kind of police officer Officer Rodney Johnson was and his legacy will continue to attest to.

He was a police officer's police officer, and he was a community servant. He worked with those who were in trouble. He worked with those who were at risk. He worked with community programs. He was a community Santa Claus because he was a big man, big with love, with earnestness, sincerity, and hard work. And, yes, he cared about his performance. He cared about his fellow brothers and sisters. And, of course, he loved his family.

So as Houston mourns, it shows what a city Houston is with a big heart. This evening there is a prayer vigil where a large gigantic card will be signed by all Houstonians. Yesterday, Quanell X organized in front of the Denny's in Third Ward, Texas, a fundraising effort that generated some \$7,600 just in the afternoon, Sunday afternoon. People drove up and came from all over to provide resources for the family. We are now planning a community-wide memorial that will take place this week after the funeralizing of this valiant and brilliant officer.

Most of all, we want to say to the family, his children, his wife, his sister, and many other relatives that we love Rodney for who he was. We love him for his legacy. We love his story and his commitment to our safety. And we will continue to work to provide more resources so our police officers can be more secure. Traveling not with one officer but two officers. A bullet-proof separation between the driver and the perpetrator or the arrested person.

And, yes, we will not scapegoat a whole class of individuals because the individual involved in this may have been without status.

The community is rallying together. The community is now honoring and mourning Officer Rodney Johnson. That is what we want this week to be, a tribute to his life and his legacy; and we want to move forward in tribute to him as we go into the weeks to come to provide more finances for our local police authorities, more cops on the beat, and, yes, to look into the request that his wife made that we find an opportunity or the resources to secure the driver and the perpetrator, to provide a bullet-proof separation from our police officers and the arrested person.

May Rodney Johnson rest in peace. May God bless his family and his children. May God continue to give them peace and comfort in His grace and mercy. My friend, our friend, Officer Rodney Johnson, well done, our good and faithful servant.

(2145)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)